IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Yoshiaki INOUE

Appln. No. 09/775,615   Group Art Unit: NOT YET ASSIGNED

Confirmation No.: NOT YET ASSIGNED   Examiner: NOT YET ASSIGNED

Filed: February 05, 2001

For: METHOD OF DETERMINING THRESHOLD ARRANGEMENT FOR GENERATING GRADATION INAGE, AND APPARATUS FOR GENERATING GRADATION IMAGE DATA

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby

notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached

Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability

of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three

months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution

application (CPA) under §1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the

merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a
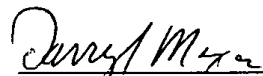
request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under

37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for

foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations:

The submission of the attached English language abstracts along with JPA Nos. 8-317212 (disclosed on page 2 in the specification) and 9-200518 (disclosed on page 2 in the specification) constitute concise statements of relevance of the respective references. Also, Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication Nos. 11-112814 is disclosed on page 2 in the specification and also corresponds with U.S. Patent No. 6,172,770 B1 submitted herewith.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such

document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not

waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any

listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN,
  MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Darryl Mexic
Registration No. 23,063

Date: May 4, 2001

2

Form PTO-1449 (Rev. 2-32)	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent & Trademark Office	Atty. Docket No. Q61780	Serial No.: 09/775,615
			Confirmation No.: NOT YET ASSIGNED
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary)		Applicant: Yoshiaki INOUE	
		Filing Date: February 05, 2001	Group: NOT YET ASSIGNED

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub-Class	Filing Date (if appropriate)
		6,172,770 B1	1/9/01	Inoue	358	1.9	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document	Date	Country	Class	Sub-class	Translation Yes/No
		9-200518	7/31/97	Japan	H04N	1/405	
		11-112814	4/23/99	Japan	H04N	1/409	
		8-317212	11/29/96	Japan	H04N	1/405	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

		Adobe Press Mountain View California; "Post Screening" Peter Fink; published by MDN Corporation 8/11/94; pages 97-106 Japanese Version and pages 89-98 the English version
		IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics; "Design of Minimum Visual Modulation Halftone Paterns" J. Sullivan, et al.; vol. 21; No. 1; pages 33-38; 1991

EXAMINER:	DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication.